

## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019

### Welcome to the Spring edition of the LSCB newsletter.

The Board met on 1 May, and on the next page you will find a summary of the issues discussed and some of the outcomes. There is as ever not enough space to highlight the many important discussions that took place, but it was really pleasing to see evidence in many reports of the continuing improvements in multi-agency practice in Redbridge: the successful roll out of Operation Encompass, which enables schools to be made aware the next day of incidents of domestic violence affecting their pupils; the commitment between the LSCB and the Safeguarding Adults Board to work together to address the needs of young people whose vulnerability does not magically disappear because they reach their eighteenth birthday; the range of activity underway in the borough to divert young people from gang involvement; some of the excellent work highlighted in audit with young people affected by peer on peer abuse; and the multi-agency commitment to a really strong action plan to tackle the issue of FGM in the Borough.

What I want to focus on here though is the discussion on two inter-related issues: the emerging plans for the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements which will replace the statutory requirement for LSCBs from September 2019; and the priorities for 2019/20 that the LSCB agreed for its work and that of its successor board under the new arrangements, which we identified as crucial to a successful transition into those arrangements.

The [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#) defines three statutory safeguarding partners – the local authority, the police, and the Clinical Commissioning Group. There is an agreement in principle between the

three local authorities in North East London (Barking and Dagenham, Havering, and Redbridge), the police through the East Area BCU covering those three boroughs, and the CCG, that the arrangements will cover the BHR area rather than be based solely on individual local authorities. However, each local authority will maintain or develop a local partnership arrangement, which will ensure that issues and accountability in individual boroughs are not lost in a wider set of BHR arrangements. In Redbridge, this will involve a continuing central role for a multi-agency partnership board, independently chaired. It's essential that the new arrangements don't inadvertently end up defining safeguarding as "what the three statutory safeguarding partners do"; and that we don't lose sight of the principle, no less true for being something of a cliché, that 'safeguarding is everybody's business'.

The Redbridge Board, successor to the LSCB, will be responsible for identifying local safeguarding priorities, overseeing the delivery of actions, and holding the local safeguarding system to account. In this context, the LSCB agreed on 1 May to develop the work programme around four key priorities. The first is safeguarding vulnerable adolescents. We don't yet have a clear multi-agency strategy for 'contextual safeguarding' – the challenge of safeguarding young people when risks arise, not within the family, but in external environments and from external actors. But the risks are multiple – sexual and criminal exploitation, trafficking, gang affiliation, involvement in County Lines, and much else. I can't recommend highly enough the [TED talk](#) on this challenge by Dr Carlene Firmin.

The Board agreed two further priorities to underpin its work: strengthening our learning from practice, and more systematically embedding in our work learning from children, young people and families. And our fourth priority is to strengthen support to schools and other educational providers. They are not 'statutory safeguarding partners'; but they are increasingly in the front line of child protection while at the same time meeting those demands within increasingly stretched resources. The Board recognised that Redbridge schools are fully engaged in the existing safeguarding partnership; it should be a priority in this transitional year to ensure that this engagement continues to be supported and if possible strengthened under the new arrangements. We plan to consult extensively with schools and other educational settings to determine a programme of work under this priority to be delivered from September 2019 onwards.



In the next newsletter, in July, we will report on our progress against the priorities we have set ourselves. Watch this space! In the meantime, when it comes, enjoy the summer!

Regards

**John**

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# Board Report

## Feedback from the LSCB Meeting – 1 May 2019

### Summary of items discussed by the Board

Among other items, the Board:

- Reviewed progress against the [2018/19 Business Plan](#). Most of the actions within the Plan have been completed. Inevitably, some of the more complex challenges – developing a comprehensive profile of the sexual and criminal exploitation of young people in the Borough, for example – have proved more stubborn to complete, and work is ongoing.
- Received a report on the roll out of 'Operation Encompass', which enables schools to be alerted the next day to incidents of domestic violence affecting their pupils. At the time of the report, approximately 50% of Redbridge schools had signed up to receive these alerts, and the response of schools using the system has been positive. For more information and to sign up, contact the Redbridge lead, DC Diane Cazan, [diane.cazan@met.pnn.police.uk](mailto:diane.cazan@met.pnn.police.uk)
- Discussed a report from Adrian Loades, Director of People, LB Redbridge, on the development of new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, and agreed a set of local safeguarding priorities for Redbridge to carry forward into those arrangements. These items are discussed in slightly more detail in the Chair's introduction to this newsletter.
- Discussed a report on transitional safeguarding – the challenge of meeting the needs of vulnerable young people whose need for support continues into young adulthood, but whose needs may not fit easily into the criteria or legislative framework of adult safeguarding. The report highlighted the increasing evidence that as a developmental phase adolescence does not end at 18, but may extend into the mid-twenties. The Safeguarding Adults Board is keen to undertake joint work with the LSCB to develop a response to this challenge.
- Reviewed the [Ofsted letter](#) following inspectors' focused visit in December 2018 to look at the local authority's arrangements for care leavers. The Board noted that at the time of the meeting a full Ofsted inspection of children's social care services was underway. The report will be published on the [Ofsted website](#) in mid-June.
- Discussed the annual report 2018/19 on child sexual exploitation in Redbridge. This will be fully considered in the LSCB Annual Report for the same period, due to be published later this year.
- Received an update on the multi-agency action plan to tackle gangs and street violence in Redbridge.
- Considered a report on a multi-agency audit of work with children and young people experiencing peer on peer abuse including harmful sexual behaviours. The audit evidenced increased professional awareness of the issue since a previous audit in 2017, and some excellent multi-agency working leading to positive outcomes for the young people affected. Areas identified for improvement included the need for more consistent exploration of risks to siblings and the influence of peer groups, and schools' need for support as they prepare to deliver the mandatory Sex and Relationship Education requirements from September 2020.
- Considered a report on some recent initiatives to improve the consistent quality of Multi-Agency Referral Forms (MARFs), and asked for an update on impact in six months' time
- Agreed the three-year multi-agency [action plan](#) to deliver the [Female Genital Mutilation Strategy – Working towards ending FGM in Redbridge](#), which was published in January.

# LSCB Business Plan 2018 -2019

## Priority 1

### To improve services for young people experiencing mental ill-health

The new Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service (EWMHS) was launched in June 2018. There is now a single point of contact for all referrals, and waiting times for both assessment and treatment have improved. Schools have welcomed the support offered by Support Time and Recovery (STAR) Workers. The LSCB has welcomed these improvements, and the service will continue to be regularly monitored, audited and evaluated.

## Priority 3

### To raise awareness of and develop service responses to peer-on-peer abuse, harmful sexual behaviours and violence

A recent multi-agency audit confirmed that there is now greater recognition and understanding of peer on peer abuse, compared to the findings of a similar audit in autumn 2019. The audit identified some excellent work in schools and elsewhere and some strong multi-agency working which delivered significant improvement in outcomes for the majority of the children whose experiences were considered.

## Priority 5

### Development of the new local safeguarding children structure and Child Death Review Process in response to the Children and Social Work Act 2017, Regulations and Working Together 2018

It has been agreed by the statutory safeguarding partners (Councils, the police, and the CCG) that the new arrangements will cover the Barking and Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge 'footprint', with greater co-ordination across the BHR area but with a continuing strong focus on local issues. Redbridge will retain a strong independently chaired partnership board. The partners are required to publish the planned arrangements by 29 June 2019. The plan is currently in draft.

## Priority 2

### To strengthen the protection and support of children and young people exposed to any form of exploitation or at risk of going missing

Work has continued to improve the multi-agency understanding of and response to contextual safeguarding, explained excellently by Dr Carlene Firmin in her recently published [TED Talk](#). The LSCB and the Safeguarding Adults Board are planning a joint approach to the safeguarding of young people who remain vulnerable to exploitation after their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday – referred to as 'transitional safeguarding' – as discussed in this Research in Practice '[blog](#)'.

## Priority 4

### To develop engagement with children, young people and families to raise awareness of and inform development of safeguarding

While excellent work continues in individual agencies and by individual practitioners, this is an area of the partnership's work which needs reinvigorating and strengthening. Young people need to have a central voice in the development of the new multi-agency safeguarding arrangements which will replace the statutory requirement for LSCBs later this year.

## Priority 6

### To strengthen the protection and support of children and young people exposed to dangerous cultural practices

The Board has agreed a [strategy](#) and a detailed [action plan](#) aimed at ending female genital mutilation (FGM) in Redbridge.

There is a partnership in place between LB Redbridge and the Barnardo's FGM National Centre which is both enabling an effective focus on this type of abuse and raising awareness of other dangerous cultural practices.

We look forward in the three-year period of the Strategy (2019 – 2021) to a roll out of new training, information events within the community and much more.

# Highlight – Prevent

## Introduction

Redbridge is a vibrant borough and generally safe place to live. However, like the rest of the capital, the Borough is affected by global issues and events. Unfortunately, the threat of terrorism is a current and ongoing concern and agencies are striving to keep people safe and protect those who are at risk of radicalisation. We are working together to deliver the Government Prevent Strategy, this is about working with our key partners to 'prevent' children, young people and adults from being drawn into extremist activity including acts of terrorism. The focus is everyone taking responsibility and knowing what to do if they have concerns.

## The Prevent Strategy

The Prevent Strategy (part of the [Counter-Terrorism Strategy 2018](#)) has three key objectives:

1. Tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism.
2. Safeguard and support those most at risk of radicalisation through early intervention, identifying them and offering support.
3. Enable those who have already engaged in terrorism to disengage and rehabilitate.

It is set up to challenge all forms of terrorism, including the influence of far right and far left extremists. It defines extremism as "vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs". Prevent operates in a pre-criminal space, supporting vulnerable people who are at risk of being groomed into terrorism before any crimes are committed. Radicalisation is discussed alongside the wider safeguarding agenda.

## Channel

Channel is a multi-agency safeguarding programme run by Councils in England and Wales. It works to support vulnerable people from being drawn into terrorism and offers support such as mentoring, counselling and assistance with employment. Channel is about

early intervention to protect vulnerable people from being drawn into committing terrorist-related activity and addresses all types of extremism. Participation in Channel is voluntary. It is up to an individual, or their parents for children aged 17 and under, to decide whether to take up the support it offers. Channel does not lead to a criminal record.

## Projects

The Redbridge Prevent Team also manage the delivery of Home Office funded projects, the main objectives of these projects are to safeguard families and build their resilience to radicalisation. Projects are delivered to a variety of audiences throughout the Borough including schools, community groups, women's groups and parents' groups and include training up Community Champions (see photo). Last year, the Prevent Team delivered seven projects which tackled issues such as gang violence, radicalisation, leadership and digital resilience. The projects aim to give participants a greater understanding of radicalisation, the current risks and threats that affect Redbridge families and the key skills needed to safeguard themselves, including critical thinking, online resilience, leadership skills as well as peer to peer learning. Additionally, the team provides training and threat briefings to professionals in schools and within the local authority in their responsibilities to prevent individuals from being drawn into, or supporting terrorism.



## Further Information

More information on safeguarding young people from radicalisation including links to online resources and training can be found on the [Redbridge Local Safeguarding Children Board](#) website. Information has also been produced by the [NSPCC](#) or can be found on the [Educate Against Hate](#) website.

For more information or to make a referral please contact the Prevent Team by via [prevent@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:prevent@redbridge.gov.uk). If there is risk of immediate harm or danger then you should contact the police on 999 or the Police Anti-Terrorist Hotline 0800 789 321.

# LSCB Training Programme Calendar

To keep fully informed about LSCB events, do follow us on ...



@RedbridgeLSCB

Below are the [upcoming learning events](#) that still have places available from the new [LSCB Training Programme 2019 - 2020](#). These multi-agency courses reflect the safeguarding priorities in Redbridge and compliment training already available within individual agencies. These are great for both professional and team development. You can see more about each event by clicking the links. Sign up is via our online [Nomination Form](#). Courses are £35 for half a day and £65 for a full day. There is no charge for attendance if you work or volunteer in the voluntary sector.

Course	Date	Details
<a href="#">Safeguarding Children from Honour Based Abuse &amp; Forced Marriage</a>	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	9.15-12.30, The Hub, 12th Floor, Lynton House
<a href="#">Safeguarding Children from Honour Based Abuse &amp; Forced Marriage</a>	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	13.15-16.30, The Hub, 12th Floor, Lynton House
<a href="#">Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP)</a>	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	13.15-16.00, Jo Newman Suite, 5th Floor, Lynton House
<a href="#">LSCB Designated Safeguarding Lead (Level 3)</a>	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	9.15-16.30, Committee Room 2, Town Hall
<a href="#">Awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)</a>	Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	13.15-16.00, Jo Newman Suite, Lynton House, Ilford
<a href="#">Introduction to Child &amp; Adolescent Mental Health</a>	Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	9.15-16.30, Committee Room 2, Town Hall
<a href="#">Managing Allegations Against Staff and Volunteers</a>	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	9.15-12.30, Room 07-01, 7th Floor, Lynton House
<a href="#">Abuse in Teenage Relationships</a>	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	9.15-16.30, Business Hub, 12th Floor, Lynton House
<a href="#">Domestic Abuse and Safeguarding Children</a>	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	9.15-16.30, Jo Newman Suite, Lynton House, Ilford
<a href="#">Modern Slavery Awareness</a>	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	9.15-12.00, The Hub, 12th Floor, Lynton House
<a href="#">Female Genital Mutilation and Breast Flattening</a>	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	9.15-12.30, Committee Room 2, Town Hall
<a href="#">Safer Recruitment</a>	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	9.15-17.00 Committee Room 2, Town Hall
<a href="#">Safeguarding Children who go Missing</a>	Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> July	13.15-16.00 Committee Room 2, Town Hall

## Suicide Prevention eLearning

Public Health England has published a new e-learning module on Suicide Prevention called **'We need to talk about suicide'**.

The module aims to provide support for volunteers and health care professionals, enabling them to recognise early warning signs of suicide, support patients and their families, as well as offering additional health services in this time of need.

The module has been developed with support from families who have lived through suicide as well as health care professionals who work in mental health services. The content includes a section on why talking matters, who is at risk and possible warning signs, how to respond and support and wellbeing. The module is free to access [here](#).

## National FGM Conference 16 June

The new Government statutory guidance on Relationships and Sex Education (RSE), announced earlier this year, makes it compulsory for secondary schools to teach pupils about Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and other harmful practices. A conference, co-produced with young people, which aims to support schools and other education providers in developing their response and fulfill their duty, is taking place on 16 June. Those attending will be enabled to:

- Understand more about what harmful practices are;
- Apply their knowledge to their role of safeguarding children;
- Understand the new statutory guidance for RSE and the teaching requirements particularly in relation to FGM and other harmful practices;
- Gain an insight into best practice around teaching on these topics; and
- Know how best to engage families to safeguard their children from harmful practices.

Speakers will include experts from the National FGM Centre, the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), both health and the legal profession, and most importantly ... young people.

The conference takes place on Tuesday 18 June from 10:00 to 16:00 in London, SE5. Free tickets can be booked via [Eventbrite](#).



## Fostering in Redbridge

**Foster Care Fortnight**, the Fostering Network's Annual campaign to raise the profile of fostering took place this year from 13 – 26 May on apt the theme of #changeafuture. The Borough's Fostering Service promoted the needs of looked after children, the important work undertaken by Foster Carers and raised awareness of the opportunities in Redbridge during the fortnight by having stalls at various libraries.

The Borough also hold regular information events throughout the year for those interested in finding out more about becoming a Foster Carer. You can find out more on the [Council's website](#) and read the latest edition of The Fostering Network magazine [here](#).

## Farewell to Pree Bhanu

Sadly, it was time at the beginning of May for Pree, our lovely National Graduate, to move onto her next placement within the Council. We would like to thank Pree for her enthusiasm and commitment to the LSCB Team and its work and wish her well for the future.



# Contact Information

## Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

[LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk)

Tel: 020 8708 5282 or 020 8708 3289

Website: [www.redbridgelscb.org.uk](http://www.redbridgelscb.org.uk)

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LSCB Training

[LSCB.Training@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB.Training@redbridge.gov.uk)

Requests, enquiries and feedback can be made using the on-line [Contact Form](#).

## Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

[LADO@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:LADO@redbridge.gov.uk)

Tel: 020 8708 5350

Mobile: 07584 127461

## Child Protection Referrals

Tel: 020 8708 3885 (Office Hours)

Tel: 020 8708 5897 (Evenings and weekends)

[CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:CPAT.Referrals@redbridge.gov.uk)

## Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

[Nem-tr.CDOP@nhs.net](mailto:Nem-tr.CDOP@nhs.net)

Tel: 020 8708 5961

Mobile: 07966599555



### Your views count!

We want your views on safeguarding issues that are important to YOU. Articles should be 200 – 300 words in length. We also welcome feedback, comments and suggestions for future content. Please contact Lesley Perry, LSCB Business Manager, via [LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk](mailto:LSCB@redbridge.gov.uk) or on 020 8708 5282 or 07775399017. Our next edition – Summer 2019 – will be published in July 2019.

Additionally, young people can share their views on the safeguarding issues that concern them at any time through completion of our [on-line survey](#). There is also [one](#) for parents and carers.